(c) whether the proposal has been examined by any group of experts or professionals; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government have constituted a Committee to work out modalities of merger of National Test House with Bureau of Indian Standards. The Committee, *inter-alia* included Technical members from Bureau of Indian Standards, National Test House and representatives from Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare and Department of Personnel & Training. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

**Minimum price for export of basmati rice**

3858. DR. (MS.) SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed minimum price for export of basmati rice to European countries;

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of basmati rice to be exported during the year 2002-03; and

(c) the other varieties of rice to be permitted/promoted by Government for export from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has not fixed any minimum price for the export of basmati rice to the European Countries.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The export of non-basmati rice is free. The requiremem of registration of contracts with the Agricultural and Processed Food

Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for the export of non-basmati rice has also been recently done away with.

**Identification of BPL families**

3859. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States have identified Below Poverty Line families so far;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, by when the States would complete this exercise; and

(d) the manner in which the BPL families would get the benefits that is due to them, where the identification of BPL families has not yet been done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir A statement showing the actual number of BPL families identified by the State Governments/UTs against the estimated number of BPL households as per the poverty estimates of Planning Commission (1993-1994) on the population base of 1.3.2000 is enclosed. *{See* below)

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the replies to parts (a) and (b) above.